REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending, Claims 1, 7-14, and 16 having been amended. Claims 18-20 are added. Support for the amendments to Claims 1, 7-14, and 16 and for the features in new Claims 18-20 is found in the specification at least on page 9-14 of the specification and in Figs. 1 and 3. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the Official Action, Claims 1-17 were objected to; Claims 1-2, 4, 7, 10, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida (U.S. Patent No. 6,785,023, hereinafter "Iida") in view of Simpson et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/016559, hereinafter "Simpson"); Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida and Simpson and further in view of Hopper et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,061,391, hereinafter "Hopper"); Claims 8, 9, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida and Simpson and further in view of Haines et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,043,523, hereinafter "Haines"); Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iida and Simpson and further in view of Zerza et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,149,697, hereinafter "Zerza"); Claims 1-3 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aiba (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0065773, hereinafter "Aiba")in view of Leone et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0100651, hereinafter "Leone"); and Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aiba and Leone and further in view of Salgado et al. (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0067504, hereinafter "Salgado")

In response to the objection to Claims 1-17, these claims have been amended to address the objections set forth on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-2, 4, 7, 10, and 15-17 as being unpatentable over

Iida in view of Simpson, amended Claim 1 recites, an image processing apparatus

management system, comprising:

>an image processing apparatus connected to a first computer
>network and having a printing function, the image processing apparatus
>including a determining unit configured to determine whether an aspect of
>the image processing apparatus is in a predetermined situation;
>a managing apparatus connected to a second computer network
>and configured to manage the image processing apparatus; [[and]]
>*a firewall configured to control data transmission between the
>first computer network and the second computer network, the firewall
>configured to allow reply data sent by the managing apparatus in the
>second computer network to reach the image processing apparatus in
>the first computer network*, the reply data being in reply to an access to
>the managing apparatus from the image processing apparatus using at least
>one of a predetermined protocol having an immediacy;
>*a generating unit configured to generate report data when the
>determining unit determines that the aspect of the image processing
>apparatus is in the predetermined situation, the report data including the
>predetermined situation of the image processing apparatus*; and
>a transmitting unit configured to *transmit the report data to the
>managing apparatus via the firewall* using the at least one of the
>predetermined protocols having an immediacy.

Support for the amendments to Claim 1 are found in Applicant's specification at least in the

paragraph beginning on page 9-14 and Fig. 3, where Applicant describes, by way of a non-

limiting example, that even when the firewall is provided between the image processing

apparatus and the managing apparatus in order to restrict communication that is sent by the

image processing apparatus, it is still possible for data to be transmitted immediately from the

image processing apparatus to the managing apparatus present on the network through the

firewall. This is possible without the need for additional telephone lines and/or getting new

mail addresses, which will likely increase costs and labor in such a system.

Iida describes a network facsimile apparatus for enabling a client to easily observe a

status of each section of the network facsimile apparatus in homepage format. The status

information generating section 41 in Iida fetches status signals indicative of respective

statuses from various image processors, and generates and updates a HTML file in which

each status of above sections are registered. For example, the status information generating section 41 in Iida generates an icon for each status, and registers a corresponding status icon to the HTML file (status html) according to a status signal from printer 6. Further, FIG. 12 of Iida illustrates a structure example of setting page for setting a update time. In Iida, an HTML file for the setting page is stored in external storage 4. The WWW server section 12 in Iida receives the file request, requests the corresponding file to file management section 36, and transmits the HTML file of setting page read from external storage 4 to client machine 202 (ST407). However, nowhere does Iida teach or suggest "*a generating unit configured to generate report data when the determining unit determines that the aspect of the image processing apparatus is in the predetermined situation*, the report data including the predetermined situation of the image processing apparatus," as recited in amended Claim 1. Further, Iida does not teach or suggest "a transmitting unit configured to *transmit the report data to the managing apparatus via the firewall* using the at least one of the predetermined protocols having an immediacy," as recited in amended Claim 1. Moreover, nowhere does Iida teach or suggest "a firewall configured to control data transmission between the first computer network and the second computer network, *the firewall configured to allow reply data sent by the managing apparatus in the second computer network to reach the image processing apparatus in the first computer network*." Simpson does not cure these deficiencies.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 1-3 and 7 as being unpatentable over Aiba in view of Leone, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Aiba describes an application that is capable of processing page information, in order to obtain driver update page information from the server apparatus. In Aiba, an updating control unit that controls a process to obtain device driver update information sent from the server apparatus and to update the device driver stored in the storage device. Aiba further

describes a server apparatus that sends a device driver to an information processing apparatus

in accordance with request of the information apparatus. However, nowhere does <u>Aiba</u> teach

or suggest "*a generating unit configured to generate report data <u>when</u> the determining unit*

determines that the aspect of the image processing apparatus is in the predetermined

situation, the report data including the predetermined situation of the image processing

apparatus," as recited in amended Claim 1. Further, <u>Aiba</u> does not teach or suggest "a

transmitting unit configured to *transmit the report data to the managing apparatus via the*

firewall using the at least one of the predetermined protocols having an immediacy," as

recited in amended Claim 1. Moreover, nowhere does <u>Aiba</u> teach or suggest "a firewall

configured to control data transmission between the first computer network and the second

computer network, *the firewall configured to allow reply data sent by the managing*

apparatus in the second computer network to reach the image processing apparatus in the

first computer network." <u>Leone</u> does not cure these deficiencies.

Therefore, none of <u>Iida</u>, <u>Simpson</u>, <u>Aiba</u>, and <u>Leone</u> teach or suggest, either separately

or in combination, "image processing apparatus management system" as defined in

independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Claim 1 (and the claims dependent therefrom) patentably

defines over the applied art.

Regarding the rejection of independent Claim 7 as being unpatentable over <u>Aiba</u> in

view of <u>Leone</u>, amended Claim 7 recites: An image processing apparatus *configured to*

perform an imaging function and connected to a computer network via a firewall that allows

data transmitted using predetermined protocols to pass through, wherein at least one of the

predetermined protocols has an immediacy, wherein a managing apparatus connected to the

computer network manages a predetermined image processing apparatus, the image

processing apparatus comprising:

> a determining unit configured to determine whether an aspect of
> the image processing apparatus is in a predetermined situation,

a generating unit configured to generate report data when the determining unit determines that the aspect of the image processing apparatus is in a predetermined situation, the report data including the predetermined situation of the image processing apparatus; and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit the report data to the managing apparatus via the firewall using the at least one of the predetermined protocols having an immediacy, wherein

reply data sent by the managing apparatus to reach the image processing apparatus is sent through the firewall, the reply data is a reply to an access to the managing apparatus from the image processing apparatus using the at least one of the predetermined protocols having an immediacy.

Aiba describes reading data out of storage, which is not an imaging function. Further, Aiba does not describe report data indicating the status of the image processing apparatus. Hence, Aiba does not teach or suggest "an image processing apparatus," as defined in amended Claim 7 and Leone, Iida, and Simpson do not cure this deficiency.

Further, independent Claim 7 recites similar features as argued above for independent Claim 1. For substantially the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 7 patentably defines over the applied art.

Therefore, none of Aiba, Leone, Iida and Simpson, teach or suggest, either separately or in combination, "an image processing apparatus" as defined in amended Claim 7. Accordingly, Claim 7 (and the claims dependent therefrom) patentably defines over the applied art.

Independent method Claim 16 recites similar features as argued above for independent Claim 1. For substantially the same reasons as discussed with regard to Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 16 patentably defines over the applied art.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 5 and 6 as unpatentable over Iida in view of Simpson and further in view of Hopper, it is noted that Claims 5 and 6 are dependent from Claim 1, and thus are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Simpson and Hopper do not cure any of the above-

noted deficiencies of Iida. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 5 and 6 are patentable over Iida in view of Simpson and further in view of Hopper.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 8, 9, and 14 as unpatentable over Iida in view of Simpson and further in view of Haines, it is noted that Claims 8, 9, and 14 are dependent from Claim 1, and thus are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Simpson and Haines do not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Iida. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 8, 9, and 14 are patentable over Iida in view of Simpson and further in view of Haines.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 11 and 12 as unpatentable over Iida in view of Simpson and further in view of Zerza, it is noted that Claims 11 and 12 are dependent from Claim 1, and thus are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Simpson and Zerza do not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Iida. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 11 and 12 are patentable over Iida in view of Simpson and further in view of Zerza.

With regard to the rejection of Claim 13 as unpatentable over Aiba in view of Leone and further in view of Salgado, it is noted that Claim 13 is dependent from Claim 7, and thus is believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Further, it is respectfully submitted that Leone and Salgado does not cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Aiba. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 13 is patentable over Aiba in view of Leone and further in view of Salgado.
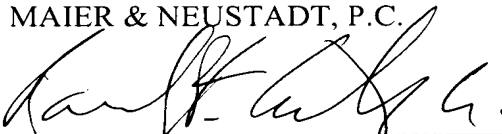
In addition, it is noted that new Claims 18-20 are dependent on Claim 1 and patentably define over the applied references for at least the same reasons Claim 1 does, as well as because of the features added by these new claims.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above

discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The

application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An

early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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